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INDUSTRIAL SHORTCOMINGS

There has been no appreciable increase in the comparatively small radio and press output on industry. Critical references to labor, management and production continue to stress such persistent failings as low efficiency, mismanagement of mechanization facilities, low quality and the apparent reluctance to accept socialist competition as a permanent industrial activity. The recent "expansion" (ukrupnenie) of USSR ministries usually gets only passing mention in connection with economic activities; it is seen as designed to improve management and thus aid production.

Reviewing instances of low labor productivity, IZVESTIA complains editorially (4 April) that many industrial leaders cannot be shaken out of their calm acceptance of the inordinate waste of labor occasioned by idle machinery and the consequent low rate of production. Such managers, the paper says, appear little perturbed by the fact that

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at many enterprises the growth of labor efficiency is held back by the poor utilization of available mechanization facilities.

Russian text:

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na mnogikh predpriyatiakh rost proizvoditelnosti truda sderzhivayetsya iz-za plckhogo ispolzovaniya imeyushchikhaya sredstv mekhanizatsii.

In fact, they are frequently inclined to organize production "as in the old days" (postarinke), by large-scale use of manual labor. At the Muromsk Locomotive Works, for example, "idleness of equipment" (prostoi oborudovaniya) accounts for the loss of 25 to 30 percent of the working time. There are many plans for improvement of the plant's operations but invariably "the plans remain on paper" (plany ostayutsya na bumage).

An appeal to "eliminate the faults hindering normal operation" of mines, plants and trusts by making better use of technical facilities is voiced by a SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DONBAS editorial broadcast from Stalino on 7 April. Average production figures and indexes provide much "satisfaction" to industrial management but never tell the true story, the paper says. Such favorable figures are usually obtained by utilizing the above-plan performance of leading enterprises "to conceal the under-production" of others and "do not reflect" (ne otrazhayut) actual conditions in every coal mine or enterprise. The Gorlovsk-ugol and Kalinin-ugol Coal Trusts are said to have juggled their output figures to show "overfulfillment of plans and even socialist obligations" when actually "a number of mines and a large number of sectors" failed to meet their production assignments.

A RADYANSKA DONESCHINA editorial (8 April) also transmitted from Stalino points out "the great advantages" (bolshoye preimushchestvo) of properly maintaining available machinery, much of which is usually out of commission, and introducing new equipment, a process held back by the unaccountable reluctance of the mining management. Their unwillingness to introduce new machinery, the paper says, is amazing, "but there is nothing amazing about the fact that every month their trusts fail to fulfill the State plans." What can be more indicative of gross mismanagement, it asks, than the chaotic situation in the Makeyev-ugol and Budenov-ugol Coal Trusts, where "machines remain idle longer than they work" (mashiny bezdeistvuyut bolshe chem rabotayut)?

Ineffective capital investment in industry is discussed in an IZVESTIA article (10 April) by Volenko, manager of the Voroshilovgrad Industrial Bank. The oblast construction projects, he says, have earmarked large appropriations for construction of related and subsidiary enterprises, but the tendency to "decimate their funds"

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(raspylenie sredstv) frequently prevents them from attaining the desired results.

The effect of this improper distribution of investment funds has long been felt at the Voroshilovskstroy Construction Trust, where projected enterprises "remain incomplete" (nakhodyatsya v nezavershennom proizvodstve) for from three to five years instead of being finished in 12 months as they should. It took that Trust eight years to build a 48-apartment house for its own employees while similar buildings for others were being turned out at "a much faster rate." But speed of construction alone does not determine the "effectiveness of capital investments," says Volenko. It is the skillful and economic utilization of the constantly growing production potential and the accumulation of technical equipment that spells the success of the large construction enterprises.

Cited in this connection is the Krasnoluch Mine-Building Trust which is said to be typical of many others. No specific figures are given in respect to its present performance, but in 1952 only four of the trust's eight tower cranes (bashennye krany) and nine of the fifteen available automatic cranes (avtokrany) were in operation; 53 out of 80 concrete mixers and half of the bulldozers were idle throughout the year. These and similar failings were responsible for "tens of million rubles in losses" (desyatki millionov rubley ubytki). The situation is even worse at the Voroshilovgrad Mine-Building Trust, where

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Sixteen million rubles' worth of idle machinery has been accumulated In a single pile here are motors, transformers, winches and starters.

Russian text:

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Bezdeistviyushchego oborudovaniya skopilos svyshe chem na 16 millionov rubley. V odnoy kuche zdes lezhat i motory, i transformatory, i lebedki, i puskateli.

It would not be too much to say, the article concludes, that the total amount of equipment and other "material values" (materialnye tsennosti) lying idle in Voroshilovgrad oblast is sufficient to build and fully equip two new construction trusts.

Honesty Is the Soviet Policy, according to an IZVESTIA article (9 April) by Kovalenko, the chairman of the Grozny oblast executive committee. Quoting from Malenkov's speech at the 19th Party Congress to the effect that "any attempt to cheat" (vsyakaya popytka obmana) the State must be considered the "gravest crime" (tyagchaisheye prestuplenie), he says that the leader's warning is not always heeded by Grozny industrial leaders.

The head of the oblast "communal economy" (kommunalnoye khozaistvo), he says, managed to get rid of his critics, surround himself with "yes men" (podkhalimy) and bilk the government and the people by squandering material values and submitting fake reports. He even developed a knack for getting out of trouble when apprehended by publicly admitting the errors of his ways and promising to make honesty his policy. His "performance record" was beaten by the director of the Grozny Wood-working Trust, who turned production failure into above-plan fulfillment--on paper--and even got a reward for it. This was done by "padded accounts," "inflated requisitions" and false reports which, incidentally, also served to cover his personal squandering activities and similar shady machinations within the enterprises under his jurisdiction.

This list of unscrupulous industrial executives, Kovalevsky hints, could be extended a great deal if all the cases were cited. It is high time that these characters realized, he says, that all their activities lead to the same place, the courtroom.

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Socialist Competition: The first indication that the reduction of Soviet ministries to fewer and larger organizations may be paralleled by a similar reorganization in industry, at least in coal mining, is contained in a broadcast from Stalino (14 April) quoting a SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DONBAS editorial. The Kuznets Basin Coal combines, it is disclosed, were merged into a single combine, Kombinat Kuzbas-ugol, on 1 April and the new enterprise is already showing greater efficiency. This point is mentioned briefly in connection with Stalino coal-production failures and the need for socialist competition.

"The coal industry of our oblast is lagging," the report continues, because the importance of socialist competition does not seem to be appreciated by the mining leadership. The existing coal faces are "not used to their full capacity," the cyclic work schedules have not been adopted by a number of mines and the experience of the advanced miners has not become the property of all concerned. The Stalin-ugol Coal Trust, for example, has already acquired a large "debt" to the State which must be covered in the very near future.

Although there is no specific suggestion that the Stalin coal-mining enterprises are to be reorganized on the enlarged Kuzbas-ugol model, the latter is now held up as an example of high efficiency, better socialist competition and "rising production tempos."

A moderate amount of publicity is given to the traditional "pre-May Day competition" (predmaiskoye sorevnovanie) which usually begins around the middle of April. Inveighing against the familiar "loud ostentation" (paradnaya shumikha) which is often used as a substitute for genuine socialist competition, PRAVDA says that this year's campaign is to place heavy emphasis on the new production methods developed by such well-known stakhanovites as Kolesov and others, which are designed to "overfulfill the Five Year Plan without the additional expenditure of raw and other materials" (pervypolnenie pyatiletnego zadania bez dopolnitelnykh zatrat syrya i materialov).

The Ukrainian industry needs "positive examples of wise utilization of technology," says RYANSKA UKRAINA editorially on 11 April. Such examples, however, are none too frequent in the Republican, local and cooperative industries, whose slow expansion is traceable to "unwise" utilization of the abundant supply of technical equipment. Other brakes on industrial production progress are the so-called "experimental statistical norms" which, according to the paper, do not meet modern production technology and do not take into account the experience of advanced workers.

Assistance from scientific research institutions, it is claimed, is slow in coming and industrial workers are still "waiting" (zhdu) for it. The workers of Soviet industry "must squeeze out as much as technical equipment can yield" if steady production progress is to be maintained, failure to work machinery to full capacity is much too frequent in the mentioned industries.

Moreover, this undesirable attitude toward the technical side of production is not confined to the light industries alone. In the Zaporozhye Steel Works first-class blast furnaces "are not fully utilized" through frequent infringement of technological rules and damages. This also applies to other (unnamed) production enterprises "where valuable equipment lies idle for long periods of time."

Following are excerpts from some of the other broadcasts on industrial activities:

Kurgan, 1 April--At a number of enterprises, in particular at the Shadrinsk Auto Aggregate Plant (avto-agregatnyy zavod), rationalization proposals remain unused, and the initiative of the workers is being suppressed (KRASNY KURGAN editorial).

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Stalino, 3 April--The idle time of the rolling mills at the Stalin Metallurgical Plant amounts to 20 percent of the total work time The machine tools of the Donbas Machine-Building Plant are being used only 60 to 70 percent of capacity. There are heavy losses from the production of imperfect products (Starobeltsev in SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DONBAS);

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Stalino, 3 April--Very poor work was done by the Frunze plant in Konstantinovka and the Kirov plant in Makeyevka There is no proper struggle for a better utilization of production capacities or for large-scale introduction of fast work methods. There are a great number of shortcomings in the work of building organizations (SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DONBAS editorial);

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Tbilisi, 4 April--Substantial shortcomings which prevent the railwaymen from insuring really accurate and efficient work still persist in the work of the Transcaucasian railroad service. There are still sections which fail to fulfill their production plans from month to month (ZARYA VOSTOKA editorial);

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Kostroma, 10 April--At the Chukhlomskiy and Soligalichskiy forestry camps and other establishments Inadmissible delays in preparation for the timber-floating season Little concern for the expected arrival of the timber has been exhibited by the distribution bases in Orekhovo, Bury and Neva (SEVERNAYA PRAVDA editorial);

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Kiev, 8 April--Serious shortcomings in the leadership of socialist competition ... brought about a failure to fulfill the quarterly plans by a number of mines, trusts and the Stalinugol and Donbas Anthracite combines. Plans are not being fulfilled by some other branches of industry (RADYANSKA UKRAINA editorial).

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PARTY ACTIVITIES

The radio output on Party life and activities is diffuse in character, with slightly more emphasis on lecture propaganda and political education than on other themes. Appeals for a higher level of lecture propaganda and more qualified propagandists are salient points. On 1 April Tambov reported that a special Party meeting recently uncovered serious failures in the oblast and town propaganda organizations. The political ignorance of the local Komsomol organizations, it was established, is reflected in the performance of their propagandists, who are "not even familiar with the fundamental questions" of Marxist-Leninist theory. Their lectures do more harm than good and contribute to the low level of political training of rank-and-file Komsomols.

A superficial attitude toward political education is the object of a RADYANSKA UKRAINA discussion of 5 April. In a number of places, notably Lvov, Kirovograd and other oblasts, political studies are said to be "lacking in depth" (bez dostatnoy glybyny), school attendance is irregular, but the Party authorities do not even show anxiety. Party meetings from the primary organization level upward, the paper continues, are meant to serve as a sort of political training center for new members and candidates, but in numerous instances they have failed to live up to the task. What the uninitiated Communists are apt to discover at such meetings is a conspicuous lack of criticism and self-criticism and that the whole affair "is conducted in an atmosphere of loud ostentation" (vidbuvayutsya v obstanovtsi paradnoyi i shumykh).

Discussing the vital importance of more and better lecture propaganda, TAMBOVSKAYA PRAVDA (8 April) says that too many individuals "with limited knowledge" (s ograni-chennymi znaniami) are being assigned to do that work. What the talks of such individuals frequently show is "an accumulation of negative facts (nakoplenie otritsatelnykh faktov) ... serious distortions and faulty assertions."

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Closer Ties Between the Party and the Masses are urged by PRAVDA (9 April) as necessary and the only "correct method" for the solution of any problem. Many years of experience have "convinced" the Soviet people that "the Party has no other purpose than the high resolve to fight for the happiness of the workers" (u partii net inykh tseley, krome vysokoy tseli borby za schastye trudyashchikhsya). It is up to the Party and its various committees therefore to justify that trust by deeds other than "fruitless meetings and conferences, large streams of directives and high-handed administration" (besplodnymi zasedaniami i soveshchaniami, obilnym potokom direktiv, administrativaniem).

In Novgorod oblast political enlightenment and mass agitation are not accorded due prominence by the Party organizations, few lectures are given to the population, political themes are seldom discussed, and criticism and self-criticism are not always encouraged. It is an open secret, the paper continues, that "the low level of mass political work is one of the main reasons" (nizkiy uroven massovo-politicheskoy raboty-odna iz glavnykh prichin) for the economic backwardness of certain rayons in the oblast. Letters received from workers, collective farmers and intelligentsia must be answered and their complaints carefully considered:

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Only a callous bureaucrat can remain indifferent to the letters from workers, can look upon them as merely complaints of unfortunate people.

Russian text:

CPYRGHT

Tolko zaskornuzliy burokrat mozhet bezdusshno otnositsya k pismam trudyashchikhsya i usmatrivat v nikh lish zhaloby dokuchnykh prositeley.

Closer ties with the masses, says a Klimenko article in RAIYANSKA UKRAINA (9 April, not broadcast), does not mean "the taking over of economic organizations" (pidmata gospodarskikh organiv) as some Communist officials seem to think. A number of Voroshilovgrad oblast Party workers, it is disclosed, were in the habit of "substituting for" the administration of economic affairs whenever shortcomings threatened the success of any undertaking. But since a Party executive is not necessarily a good industrial manager, the results of their interference were often disastrous. This was demonstrated in the case of the Voroshilovgrad oblast retail trade network, where unnecessary meddling instead of "guiding and supervising" tended to aggravate matters: "As a result swindlers and alien elements have infiltrated the leading positions in the trade network" (Vnaslidok tsyogo na perivni posty do torgovelnioi sitky probraiysya shakhray i vorozhi elementy). No further details are offered in this connection beyond the remark that those responsible for the misdemeanors have been removed.

An attack on Party leadership which frequently resorts to the perverse method of assuming direct responsibility for economic affairs and thereby "depersonalizing" (obeslichivayut) industrial management is also contained in a STAVROPOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorial of 10 April. This sort of Communist leadership, it is asserted, "limits the functions of local Soviets and lowers the sense of responsibility of the management itself."

Popular Education and Science are among the other talking points of the central and regional radio and press output for the first half of April. Most of the broadcasts on the subject stress that the success or failure of public education is determined by the quality of Party supervision over school activities and the careful selection of qualified teaching personnel. PRAVDA's review of school affairs (9 April) brings forth the admission that

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the level of Party leadership of public education in a number of oblasts, krajs and republics still remains low and is not in keeping with the new tasks.

Russian version:

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uroven partiynogo rukovodstva narodnym obrazovaniem v ryade oblastei, krayev i respublik ostayotsya vse eshche nizkim i ne sootvetstvuyet novym zadacham.

The issue is amplified by the assertion that the "exodus" (otsev) of students from schools noted this year "in a number of republics and oblasts" as well as the "slow progress" (nizkaya uspevayemost) made by others reflects the lack of interest on the part of the local Party committees. It simply means, the paper affirms, that the teachers have not been carefully selected and school instruction offers little attraction to students. That the failure to hire teachers with adequate academic and political background may mean even more than that is indicated in the case of the Kaluga Pedagogical Institute where some of the instructors were found to be "politically doubtful" (politicheski somnitelnie). This is said to have been amply demonstrated by their performance:

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Taking advantage of the complacency of the Institute's leaders, they endeavored to inculcate alien customs in the students and to disseminate alien ideology.

Russian text:

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Polzuyas bespechnostyu rukovoditeley instituta, oni pytalis nasazhdat sredi studentov chuzhdie nray, rasprostranyat chuzhduyu ideologiyu.

No details are offered as to the nature of the mentioned foreign customs and ideas.

The head of the Rozovskiy rayon Party is quoted in a press review broadcast from Zaporozhye on 7 April as stating that there were "too many unsuccessful children in the rayon schools." The absence of criticism, self-complacency and excessive "chumminess" among the teachers are given as the main reason, but the Marxist-Leninist training of the teachers and the "political content" (politicheskoye soderzhanie) of their lessons should not be overlooked, the report says. A report from Alma Ata (10 April) quotes KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA as complaining that the studies at many of the Republic's schools "fall short of requirements." the standard of teaching is low and no measures are taken to popularize and introduce polytechnical instruction.

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Backwardness among pupils is noted particularly in the study of the Russian and Kazakh languages and in mathematics. Instruction of physics, chemistry and biology is not being reorganized fast enough on the basis of "polytechnization."

An article by Kondratyev carried by IZVESTIA on 10 April but not broadcast blames the USSR Ministry of Education for the shortage of adequate school buildings, particularly in the rural areas, and the lack of such study aids as drawing sets, chemical sets, laboratory equipment, etc. Who else but the Ministry, he asks, should do something about the fact that the Moscow Khimreaciv plant, which should produce chemicals for school laboratories, has been turning out blueing for laundries? The Phizpribor plant, which is expected to manufacture a variety of complicated drawing and other sets for physics students, prefers instead to make about 10 million penholders annually. While many middle and higher schools are

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short of electrical instruments for their physical and chemical laboratories, the Fizielektropribor factory, which is supposed to cater to these schools, has been producing millions of rubles' worth of "pocket flashlights" (karmannie fonariki). The RSFSR Educational Ministry is not alone in its muddling performance, says Kondratyev. A look at some of the public schools in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, Kirghizia and Belorussia will convince anyone that their respective Ministries are just as inefficient.

In an IZVESTIA article broadcast on 12 April Belorussian Minister of Education Ilyushin admits "the serious shortcoming" prevailing in the Republic's public education system. It is true, he says, that the Belorussian publishing house for textbooks and teachers' manuals (uchpedgiz) "has been behind the plan from year to year" (is goda v god ne vpolnyaet plana); it is also true that "belated appropriations" (nesvoevremennoye finansirovaniye) have prevented a number of schools from acquiring the necessary equipment and books for their libraries. The Minister reveals also that a "large number" of middle and seven-year schools do not even have their own school grounds (prishkolnie uchastki): there are 43 such property-less schools in Vitebsk oblast, 48 in Gomel and 28 in Molodechno oblast.

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